

'TORRANCE PLAN' WILL BE INAUGURATED AS MERCHANTS STAGE TWO BIG DOLLAR DAYS

While the national trend in merchandising is for "lower prices to clear the shelves," Torrance merchants are stealing a march by staging two mammoth "Dollar Days," Friday April 25, and Saturday April 26, thus inaugurating the "Torrance Plan."

'Open House' At National Friday For Families

First opportunity of many families of employees of the National Supply Company to see the "inside workings" of the big Torrance plant will be afforded tomorrow, April 25, when an "open house" will be staged under sponsorship of the company through the National Supply Management Club.

CITY WORKERS REDUCED FROM 124 TO 89 IN LAST MINUTE ECONOMY MOVE BY COUNCIL

In an eleventh-hour economy streak by which they hope to save enough money to meet municipal obligations for 1944-47 and start the new fiscal year without having spent funds in excess of revenue (unlawful under the Constitution), the members of the City Council Tuesday night slashed the municipal payroll from 124 to 89, nearly one-third.



NEGOTIATING CONTRACT... Frank Donoghue, director of industrial relations for the National Supply Company, is in Torrance this week from the company's head offices at Pittsburgh, Pa. He is assisting in negotiating a new working contract with employees of the pioneer Torrance plant.



BOWLERS HONORED... Seated at the speakers table at a banquet Monday night honoring the winning team in the National Supply bowling league, the "Rebels," are left to right, Dave Sowle, Bill Sullivan, Millard Thorpe, league president, Al Witt, MC J. S. Spalding, who presented the awards, the guest of honor, Frank Donoghue, director of industrial relations for the National home plant in Pittsburgh, Penny Bolen and Carl Hansen, local industrial relations director. In the lower photo, Bert O'Neil, team captain, smilingly receives the trophy from Spalding.

NSCO Bowling League Honors Winning Team

With a big feed and trophies for each member of the team, the National Supply bowling league honored the winning team, the "Rebels," at a banquet at Melton's-by-the-Sea Monday night.

NEW HOPE SEEN FOR COLLEGE AT ALONDRA AS SUPERVISORS' \$3000 ACRE PRICE PROTESTED

Revelation in the Torrance Herald last week that the Board of Trustees of El Camino Junior College district were about to abandon Alondra park as a site for the college brought a wave of protests from throughout the district.

Citizens Fooled By 'Gambling'—Student Joke

Torrance police were informed this week that someone was passing cards which advertised a "night club" in the west Torrance area featuring dancing and "gambling."

CHAMBER DIRECTORS COUNCIL TO DISCUSS CHARTER CHANGE

Members of the City Council and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors will meet in joint session on Tuesday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss proposed amendments to the City Charter, it was agreed Tuesday night.

Upon the insistence of interests generally representing gambling in Gardena, including a chamber of commerce secretary, the supervisors had indicated that it wanted \$3000 an acre for the land which has stood undeveloped for years and a burden on the taxpayers. The Gardena group, it was said, claimed that the educational institution would "interfere" with plans for a golf course on the park.

Torrance interests, supported by those of Redondo Beach, Alondra, Gardena and other nearby communities, aided largely in securing the passage of legislation to permit the supervisors to grant the college a 75-acre site at Alondra for the park. Pat MacDonnell secretary of the chamber in Gardena, who has been carrying on his fight against the college, is reported to be located at Alondra park was a great influence on the voters of Torrance on Jan. 24, when they decided to affiliate with Redondo Union high school district next year, for secondary education purposes. To do this, a vote of 10 to 1, Torrance also became a part of El Camino College district.

Those who are insisting that the supervisors go through with their promise of the land at a nominal price per acre, at the end of a five-year lease period, claim that to buy land elsewhere will throw a new and unnecessary burden on the taxpayers.

Not only will the taxpayers of the district have to pay nearly \$200,000 for the land, but it also removes from the tax rolls the assessed valuation of that land thus spreading the tax burden of the site over the remainder of the district.

Board of Education Offices To Be Opened May 1 On Torrance Blvd.

Torrance City Board of Education will open administrative offices at 2093 Torrance blvd. on May 1, according to Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the board, and all teacher applications and other matters pertaining to the Torrance City School district will be handled there after that date.

Dr. Wood, joined Superintendent Hull in an appeal to owners of rental property, including rooms with or without board, to register their accommodations with the school office that the teachers who are employed in Torrance might become residents of the community, to participate in its activities.

Hull said that the important issues before the board include determination of the policy on finances. He said that if the board as representative of the people want the schools promised in the recent election campaign, patience is needed until issues of finance are met to the point where economy and the finest schools go hand in hand. Due to the lack of state school support, next year, he pointed out, it will be difficult to present the education program desired unless additional finances are located during the coming months.

Hull revealed that he had sold his home in Corona and had gone into escrow on a residence in Torrance. "I am most anxious to get down to Torrance on a full-time basis, because I realize the opportunity that awaits the school administration in Torrance is one which has attracted the interest of many an educator," Hull said.

Sam Levy Offers to Put Fire Station In Safe Condition for \$2500 to \$3000

Sam Levy, pioneer local merchant and property owner, told the City Council Tuesday night that he could take from \$2500 to \$3000 and put the central fire station in condition safe enough to house the department for several years, and Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. urged him to "put it in writing."

City Engineer G. M. Jain had just reported that lowest estimates from contractors to do the job were \$10,000, and he said it will take from \$2000 to \$4000 to erect temporary shelter for fire equipment in the rear of the Chamber of Commerce building.

"Fire equipment, standing out and exposed to the elements since condemnation of the fire station early in March, is fast deteriorating," it was pointed out. "The walls of that building are 24 inches thick," Levy told the Council, "enough to hold it up for many years and through any earthquake."

Levy said he had inspected the building and can accomplish sufficient repairs to render it safe for occupancy at a cost of one fourth the quoted contractor's estimates.

Columbia Workers Get Increase of 12 1/2 Cents An Hour Under New Pact

Benjamin F. Fairless, president of the United States Steel Corporation, has announced that the five principal steel producing subsidiaries of United States Steel Corporation have concluded an agreement with the United Steelworkers of America, (CIO), providing a general wage increase of 12 1/2 cents an hour, or \$1 a day, and other employment benefits.

"This agreement will directly result in an estimated increase of \$75,000,000 a year in the employment costs of United States Steel," Fairless said. "This does not take into consideration large increases which may well follow in the prices of the many millions of dollars worth of goods and services which we purchase from others. Our past experience has been that a substantial increase in the prices of our purchased goods and services inevitably follows a rise in industrial wage levels. It is impossible now to estimate accurately what these

REDUCED SPEED ON CRENSHAW SUBJECT TO NEW INQUIRY

Investigation of the possibility that speed on Crenshaw blvd. from Torrance blvd 1500 north may be set at 25 miles per hour by City Council resolution, was asked of City Engineer G. M. Jain and Chief of Police J. H. Stroh Tuesday night. Stroh said it can be done, but the Council said they needed a survey or count of traffic before acting.

Public Schools Week Scheduled April 28, May 1

Public Schools' Week this year will be the week of April 28-May 1, coinciding with Boys' Week.

Several programs will be held at the Torrance High auditorium during the week, at which time any parents or townspeople interested are invited to attend.

On April 29 an assembly will be given by a group of blind musicians. At 1:15 the open house program will be held. Sally Spinner, of the Broadway department store, will present a style show on May 2. This will be sponsored by the Girls' league. Twenty-five girls from Torrance High will serve as models.

City Lots Up For Sale Again, For \$25,000

Those famous city lots at El Prado and Cravens avenue are up for sale again, this time for \$25,000 or more, it revealed Tuesday night.

The Council agreed to sell the lots, 4, 5 and 6 of block 14, Torrance tract, but ruled that no bid will be considered under \$25,000.

Several months ago the city offered them at a minimum of \$18,000, but an offer of \$12,000 which was rejected. They were considered as a site for the fire station, rejected by the voters March 18.

Nothing Can Be Done About Santa Fe Tracks Until War Is Over—Willett

The war isn't over, and unless the City Council wants to counteract a minute order of a previous Council, nothing can be done at this time about removal of the Santa Fe tracks from Madrid avenue.

So ruled City Attorney Otto B. Willett Tuesday night after a letter was read from Mrs. Cecilia Young and a group of other property owners along Madrid avenue seeking councilmanic action to bring about removal of the tracks.

Upon reading of the letter, the advice of Willett was asked and he declared that, contrary to the letter which said the President declared the war emergency was over on Dec. 31, 1946, the country is "at war," until Congress declares that the war is at an end.

Willett said that the Council on Aug. 8, 1944, had agreed that the tracks can stay on Madrid avenue, without a franchise, for the duration of the war plus six months.

AMENDMENT TO CIVIL SERVICE ORDINANCE ASKED

The City Charter gives the City Council a right to amend the Civil Service Ordinance, City Attorney Otto B. Willett told the Council Tuesday night after the Civil Service Board had urged that changes be made to permit all members of the board to serve on trials of city personnel matters. Now only three members may serve.

The request was referred to Willett for recommendation. The Council informed the department heads that, following the suggestions of Cotton, it was authorizing and adopting the following recommendations: 1. All overtime pay shall be eliminated. 2. All hourly employees shall be eliminated, excepting school crossing guards. 3. Expenses for the balance of the fiscal year (April, May and June) must be kept to bare necessities. 4. That in the various departments certain personnel be laid off or positions be abolished for an indefinite period.

City Auditor Cotton addressed those present at an April 15 meeting, and explained to the department heads that each year during past years the city has gone further behind in its financial structure. He stated that the financial difficulties now confronting the City Council are not something which has happened during the past few months, but that it has been accumulating over a period of years due to the war and other conditions over which the City Council has had little or no control, and that for the first time in years the city is now registering warrants at this time of the fiscal year.

It was further explained by Cotton that the city is approaching the beginning of the fiscal year without any funds with which to meet its obligations, and after a study of this situation by his office and the City Council, it was determined that by curtailment of personnel and expenses for the balance of the fiscal year a saving of about \$14,000 a month may be effected.

Under the Constitution of the State of California and the Charter of the City of Torrance, this action is mandatory inasmuch as it is illegal for the city to spend monies in excess of anticipated revenue. Bartlett said that figures show the trend of balances in the city treasury downward in recent years is as follows: July 1, 1944 \$161,287.17 July 1, 1945 119,396.29 July 1, 1946 54,208.45 He said that the city would have the Water department loan to the general fund paid off, but that there would be no balance to start the new fiscal year. Most of those laid off are veterans, it was pointed out.



CONGRATULATIONS... In the center of the group above are City Clerk Albert H. Bartlett and family, among city workers and friends who gathered at his home recently for a surprise party honoring the official's 25th anniversary as City Clerk. The Bartletts were presented with a radio by the group.